



BIBLE: Expositional, Gospel-Centered Bible Teaching Is The Foundation Of Church Health

June 2, 2024

What are different styles of preaching?

1. Topical preaching begins with the needs of the audience.
2. Expositional preaching begins with the Bible.
3. Consecutive expositional preaching covers entire books of the Bible.

A. Consecutive expositional preaching helps us understand verses in context.

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. John 14:13–14 (ESV)

B. Consecutive expositional preaching forces us to look at parts of the Bible we wouldn't normally consider.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

C. Consecutive expositional preaching teaches the Bible to a world that doesn't know it.

What role has expository preaching played in church history?

1. The Ancient Church — John Chrysostom
2. The Medieval Church — John Wycliffe and William Tyndale
3. The Reformation Church — Martin Luther and John Calvin

I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything.
— Martin Luther, March 10, 1522.

4. The Modern Church — The Puritans

Why do we trust the Bible?

1. The Bible claims to be God's words, not man's words.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

...knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV)

2. The Word of God is alive!

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

3. The Word of God is truth in a world of deception.

The sum of your word is truth,... Psalm 119:160 (ESV)

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17 (ESV)

The law of the LORD is perfect,... Psalm 19:7 (ESV)

Every word of God proves true;... Proverbs 30:5 (ESV)

...God, who never lies, promised before the ages began Titus 1:2 (ESV)

4. The Word of God creates and sustains spiritual life.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout,... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10–11 (ESV)

...you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 1 Peter 1:23 (ESV)

"The Bible is like a lion. I don't need to defend it. I let it out of its cage. It will defend itself." — C.H. Spurgeon

But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

5. The Bible was created by God.

- The Council of Carthage in 393 A.D. and the Council of Hippo in 397 A.D. didn't create the Bible. They only recognized the books of the Bible that God had already made churches worldwide recognize as authoritative.

6. The Bible claims to give us God's Words.

- 3,808 times the Old Testament claims to speak God's Words.

thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. Haggai 1:5 (ESV)

- The New Testament references the Old Testament over 1,000 times. It quotes the Old Testament 320 times.

Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas,... Acts 1:16 (ESV)

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:11–12 (ESV)

For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." 1 Timothy 5:18 (ESV)

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters... There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 2 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV)

7. Jesus considered the Old Testament to be flawless.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Matthew 5:17–18 (ESV)

And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living. You are quite wrong."

Mark 12:26–27 (ESV)

But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Mark 10:6–9 (ESV)

8. Jesus leaves us with only three possible ways to view the Bible.

1. There are errors in the Bible, but Jesus didn't know about them.
2. There are errors in the Bible, but Jesus chose to cover them up.
3. There are no errors in the Bible, and Jesus is right.

Biblical prophecy proves the Bible is trustworthy.

- See Ezekiel 26 to 28 on the destruction of the city of Tyre.

Life Group Questions

1. What has been your experience with different preaching styles? What are the strengths and potential pitfalls of each style? Why has CrossWinds chosen to have the majority of our preaching be in a consecutive expository style?
2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21, and Hebrews 4:12.** How should these verses change how we preach and read the Bible? What we should expect from the Bible?
3. **Read 1 Peter 1:23 and Matthew 4:4.** To reach people with Jesus, why is it important to use the Bible?
4. How would you answer someone who told you the biblical writers sometimes heard God wrong or that now God is saying or doing something new?
5. What was Jesus' view of the Bible? Is there ever a time we would want to hold a different view of the Bible than Jesus did?
6. Share current examples of how churches and denominations claim to hold to the Bible, but they have reinterpreted it instead of submitting to it.
7. Pray for the leaders and pastors of CrossWinds and the Evangelical Free Church. Ask God to help them always hold a high view of Scripture in a culture where it is eroding away.